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CLARKSBURG, W. VA., FEB. 25, 1904

#### JAPAN SIZED UP WRONG.

The average person has the people of Japan sized up in a very wrong light. Most of us have a very wrong conception of the Japanese. The idea of the average person is that the Japanese population consists of opium-smoking, ignorant, unclean men, running around on their toes, dressed in loud-colored kimonos and balancing long poles over their heads practicing their abilities for vaudeville exhibitions.

As a matter of fact the Japanese people are cleanly, honest, ingenious, courteous, industrious, frugal. They possess a sentiment of personal honor that is not equalled in any other nation of the earth. While they are of mild intelligence they have a strong desire for knowledge and they are farther advanced in civilization than their big despotic and barbaric antagonist. The people are possessed of great qualities. They have yielded to the progress of the world and taken up with it. The most important reform of the century was the admission of foreigners and the assimilation of European ideas. The nation has bettered socially and morally by this and has a future of bright hope for its industrial and intellectual advancement.

The people of Japan are busy. They are extensive agriculturists. They have silk and cotton factories which are rapidly developing. Paper mills are numerous and of importance in their commerce.

One feature of the government that places it ahead of barbaric Russia is its absolute freedom of belief. Education is compulsory. There are about thirty thousand elementary schools with sixty advanced schools and the Imperial university. 30,000 books are published annually. 900 periodicals are issued during the year. The people have railroads, telegraph lines, cables and all of the modern conveniences known to civilization.

A few other facts about Japan—while we are on the subject. The Japanese nation is located upon about 4,000 islands. It contains about 100,000 square miles and has a population of about 40,000,000. The density of population is about 275 to the square mile. The political divisions consist of 85 provinces. There are 1,284 towns and 13,773 villages.

Japan is a north temperate country. Its temperature ranges from 36 degrees in January to 80 degrees in August, the average mean being about 60 degrees—nearly the same temperature of Virginia.

Until 1889 the government was vested in an absolute monarchy. The empire awakened to the progress of civilization and a more modern form of government is in force to-day. The supreme executive authority is vested in the Emperor whose rights of sovereignty are limited by an advisory council, a privy council and the Imperial Diet, the latter consisting of a House of Peers and a House of Representatives, each numbering about 300.

#### ELKINS' CANDIDACY.

The candidacy of United States Senator Stephen B. Elkins, of this State for the Republican nomination for the Vice Presidency, meets with the hearty approval of every West Virginian, without regard to politics. Every Republican in the State would like to see him thus honored and they all have faith

in his eminent ability to fill the place in a way second to none who have ever been there or who are likely to go there. They know him to be a strong, brainy man, one capable of discharging the duties of the President himself. All West Virginia Democrats, whose partisanship is not of the character to prejudice them know him to be exactly what the Republicans claim for him and they would feel that their State would be honored with him in the Vice Presidential chair. They also feel that he is such a man as would be of great benefit to the nation in general.

The country at large knows Senator Elkins and they have learned to look upon him as next to Senator Hanna in statesmanship, leadership and broad policy. The past few years he has grown strong in the affairs of the nation and reaches out beyond party lines. He is not afraid to oppose measures, which he thinks are not good for the nation, even though they are party measures, and he always commands respect for his attitude on all public questions and wields an influence that but few of his colleagues in the Senate equal.

Senator Elkins towers above many of the leading statesmen of the day in that his work is not confined alone to the halls of Congress, but extends to various sections of the country to the extent that he is a power in the commercial and industrial world. He is a constructionist both in belief and action and his labors have resulted in building up the country. In his own State in particular he has done more than any other man to develop and make useful its rich natural resources. In other states, and especially the commercial centers, he has stimulated and fostered safe and conservative methods of business and investment. The influence he has in this respect has won him fame and high standing as a financier.

His nomination will mean that Theodore Roosevelt will have an advisor of the same high character President McKinley had in the late Senator Hanna.

#### POLITICS IN PULPIT.

A Huntington minister dabbled in politics in his Sunday sermon to such an extent that several of his congregation who had just been in the political fray in that section talked the matter in church and came to blows, while the preacher was delivering the sermon. He suspended his Biblical thought and mixed up in the melee with the result that he got his head split open and now he is under bond to answer an indictment by the grand jury. It may have been all right for him to talk politics instead of religion but it is to his disgrace that he fought. He has ruined himself so far as that locality is concerned and will find himself under the necessity of moving on. The church members who were united to battle by his words deserve severest punishment for disturbing religious worship and should be summarily expelled from the church. They are not needed there and in fact ought not to be there. They should go with the minister.

The press dispatches have the Dowager Empress of China dead. This seems to have been a sort of habit with the Empress. She has been reported dead and dying more times than there have been Russian battleships destroyed the past month. In fact this woman is rather a remarkable personage. Whenever there is anything going on in the far East and the attention of the world is attracted there for the time, the Empress reminds the world of herself by promptly dying. We remember during the war between China and Japan of reading no less than thirty or forty dis-

patches of as many different dates of the death of the Dowager Empress.

Billy Bryan offers a cash reward to anybody who can furnish him with a good, reasonable, sound political platform. Somebody ought to send him a copy of the Republican platform and claim the reward.

The New York Journal and the New York World know a great deal more about the war in the far East than the men who are doing the fighting, according to the columns of those papers.

Isn't it about time to lay that Cleveland boom on the shelf to lie in the dust and be forgotten along with the rest of the "has been" things of the centuries?

**Pneumonia more Fatal than Consumption**  
It is not generally known that more people die from pneumonia than consumption. This is because every one, young or old, is susceptible to its attacks after exposure. J. W. Bryan, of Lowder, Ill., writes: "My little boy was very low with pneumonia. Unknown to the doctor we gave him Foley's Honey and Tar. The result was magical and puzzled the doctor, as it immediately stopped the racking cough and he quickly recovered." Refuse substitutes. Sold by Stone & Mercer, C. D. Sturm & Co., and R. J. Criss.

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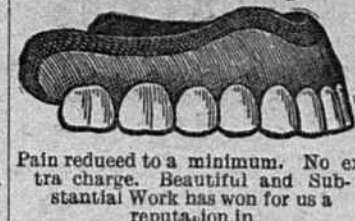
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